



THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5550



JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH

LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Standard grasses, mow when the turf reaches 4 to 4 1/2 inches high. Dwarf varieties, mow when the turf reaches 3 1/2 inches. Do not remove more than 1/3 of the height of the leaf blade with any mowing. Return clippings on the lawn unless excessive.
- **Irrigation:** Apply 3/4 inches of water at each irrigation period. During the winter, grasses only need to be watered once every 10-14 days. During warmer periods, water twice a week. Over watering encourages nutrient leaching, shallow rooting and disease problems.
- **Weed Control:** Apply pre-emergent herbicide such as atrazine in St. Augustine grass around or before February 15. Do not apply herbicides if the turf is under moisture stress or if air temperatures exceed 85 degrees F.
- **Fertilization:** Apply a complete fertilizer, 8-2-12 at the rate of 0.5 pound nitrogen per 1000 square feet (e.g., 6.25 pounds/1000 sq. feet) during March or two weeks following spring's new growth. At this rate you can make 4 applications of fertilizer/year.

CITRUS

- **Fertilization:** Apply a citrus special fertilizer in March at the rate determined by the trunk circumference measured in inches at the base. Total inches will equal total pounds of fertilizer per year. If measurement is 12 inches, apply 3 pounds of fertilizer at each of the 4 recommended applications per year in March, May, August, and October. Spread the fertilizer uniformly over the area from about 1 ft. away from the trunk to 3 feet past the "drip line" of the tree.

WINTER 2011

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Urban Horticulturist
Seminole County Extension

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November 1, 2009 -March 14, 2010

Seminole County water Conservation Ordinance #2009-24 states residential homeowners may only irrigate

one day per week

- If your house is odd # only on Saturday
- If your house is even# only on Sunday
- Commercial irrigation only on Tuesday
- **No watering** between 10:00am-4:00pm
- Limited to no more than 3/4in. per zone
- Limited to one hour per zone

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IFAS ~ EXTENSION

<http://solutionforyourlife.com>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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(Continued from pg 1)

- **Irrigation:** Water once weekly or when trees show any wilting to avoid stressing the plants, especially when expecting low temperatures.
- **Weed control:** Citrus should be kept free of weeds and never mulched. Keep the weeds away from young trees 3 ft. around the trunk; for older trees, keep weeds out of the area under the canopy of the tree. Use only herbicides with no soil activity.
- **Pruning:** Prune only to remove diseased or cold damaged branches, during the months of March through June. Dooryard citrus usually do not need any pruning.

PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized three times per year and in deep sandy soils up to six times per year. Use a special slow release palm fertilizer such as 8-2-12- 4Mg. Use 12 pounds of fertilizer per 1000 square feet 3 times a year. If nutritional deficiencies of a particular nutrient are visible, additional applications of that nutrient may be necessary to correct the problem.
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date palms should not be irrigated once established.
- **Pruning:** Old dead leaves should be removed by cutting them from the underside to avoid tearing the fibers of the palm's stem. Do not remove green or slightly spotted leaves, palms need all the available green photosynthetic area to produce food.

*** **Note:** *When palms are close to other landscape plants and lawn, use a palm fertilizer to fertilize all plants within 50 feet of the palms. Fertilizers with high nitrogen to potassium ratio will result in a severe to lethal potassium and magnesium*

Winter Vegetables & Herbs

VEGETABLES – Beets, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Horseradish, Lettuce, Mustard, Onions, Peas, Radishes, Spinach, Swiss chard and Turnips.

HERBS - Anise, Basil, Bay, Chives, Cilantro, Coriander, Dill, Fennel, Lavender, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Sweet marjoram, Thyme and Watercress.

FLOWERS – Alyssum, Baby's breath, Begonia, Bush daisy, Calendula, Candytuft, Carnation, Chrysanthemums, Delphinium, Dianthus, Dusty miller, Foxglove, Geranium, Hollyhock, Iceland poppy, Lobelia, Ornamental cabbage & kale, Pansy, Petunia, Salvia, Snapdragon, Sweet pea, Verbena and Viola.



FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. Water Efficiently
3. Fertilize Appropriately
4. Mulch
5. Attract Wildlife
6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
7. Recycle
8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff
9. Protect the Waterfront

Choosing the Right Plant, Right Place can bring your garden through cold and hot weather. Plants are amazing and can live for many years planted in the right place. However, if you do not choose the right plant it can cost you time, money and energy. Many gardeners know that we live in Florida Hardiness Zone 9B, which is used to determine where a plant grows and the lowest possible temperature a plant will survive in winter. Plants in this zone can withstand an average annual minimum temperature of 20F - 30F. If you select a plant in the 10 zone and above you risk the chance of losing that plant during our central Florida winter.

Florida usually has moderate winters and occasionally we have a hard freeze. This year has been unusually cooler earlier than years gone by. How many of you have been covering those special non-zone 9b subtropical plants and some vegetables?

One the major Florida-friendly Principles is planting the right plant in the right place, and choosing and planting plants that are cold tolerant is not something you may be thinking about in mid-July when temperatures are above 90F. Be sure to read the tags on your plant selections.

If you remember in early 2010 we had some freezing temperatures and many folks had many plants to replace and even some lawn areas.

If you have a lawn planted with warm season grasses many species go into "dormancy" during the winter. Please remember not to fertilize after mid to late September and not again until March. Growing naturally slows during this time and the product will not benefit your lawn.

Freezing temperatures will turn your lawn brown. Do not panic, this is normal part of winter dormancy. When the days become longer and the temperatures start warming up in the spring, the growing points will become active, bringing new growth to your lawn. Remember that during the same period watering once a week or every other week will be sufficient.

If your lawn does not recover come spring time, remove the dead stuff and replace with plugs. Do this before the weeds get a hold. For more information check out www.yourfloridalawn.ifas.ufl.edu

To schedule a FYN program for your Homeowner Association or organization, or learn more contact Gabrielle Milch, FYN Coordinator, at 407 665-5575 or fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov. Check out the websites www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn and www.FloridaYards.org



“Ask A Master Gardener”

We will help with your gardening and landscape questions.

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
& 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
407-665-5550

A word about “organic” pesticides
Beware...just because a pesticide is labeled as “organic” (which usually means it is derived from a plant) does not mean that it is not toxic. Organically derived pesticides (like nicotine sulfate, rotenone, sabadilla, etc.) usually breaks down quickly in the environment, but can be toxic to bees, fish and mammals (including humans).

Environment-friendly spray

1 gallon water
2 tbsp dish soap
(without degreasers)
2 tbsp vegetable oil

Make sure the plant is not stressed from lack of water; if so, water it thoroughly before spraying. Spray in the cooler part of the day. Thorough coverage of the plant is important.

Homemade Fungicide

1 gallon of water
4 teaspoons of baking soda
1 oz. horticulture oil

Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) in combination with horticultural oils has been shown to control powdery mildew and black spot on roses. Spray weekly to prevent disease.

**test products on a small portion of the plant; wait a day or two: inspect the plant for damage before spraying the entire plant.*

Q. What are your favorite Florida vegetable gardening books?

A. My two favorite books on the topic are Vegetable Gardening in Florida by James M. Stephens (ISBN: 978-0-8130-1674-0) and Guide to Florida Fruit and Vegetable Gardening by Robert Bowden (ISBN: 1-59186-464-X). Both books were available from internet bookstores at prices below retail at the time of this article.

Q. What is meant by the term “organic vegetable gardening”?

A. Organic vegetable gardening means different things to different people. Formally certified organically grown crops must meet the very stringent certification requirements described in the IFAS publication Introduction to Organic Crop Production HS 720 intended for the professional farmer interested in growing certified organic vegetables. Home gardeners seeking practical organic gardening techniques are served by IFAS publication Organic Vegetable Gardening CIR375. Both publications are available online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>. You may also call or drop by the Seminole County Cooperative Extension office to ask a Master Gardener to print a copy for you.

Q. I have a small gardening space. Can you recommend a hybrid determinate tomato variety for Florida?

A. Recently I discovered a hybrid determinate tomato, BHN 602 which met all of the advertised claims when grown in my containers this year. I found transplants at a local gardening center, but also found seeds available at multiple online seed companies. The plants matured to a final height of between 3 and 4 feet making staking easy. The tomatoes averaged 3” to 4” in diameter and tasted great.





THE TEACHING GARDENS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY

To educate and to encourage the practice of urban horticulture

Free and open to the public during regular business hours. For more information, to request a speaker, or arrange group visits, contact the garden coordinator.

Extension Office Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

Cleaned up the teaching gardens in preparation for some new plantings in the spring. The pond has been refurbished and hosts some new resident fish and aquatic plants. Come by and check out the new raised bed vegetable plots in the front of the Extension Office and the larger plot in the rear of the office. The early December cold snap has taken its (hopefully small) toll in a few areas.

Coordinator: Jim Bourg, jwbourg@gmail.com

Student Museum Gardens • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

If the cold weather here in central Florida is keeping you indoors, there are several culinary and medicinal herbs that can be grown indoors. They will do well in a bright window or under your skylights. Those left over herbs you received and purchased during the holidays can be grown indoors. Examples of some of our common herbs can be found in our Herb and Pioneer gardens at the Student Museum Gardens. Some of my favorites are Basil, Chives, Mint, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage and Thyme. Sponsored in part by the SCPC Student Museum and the Orlando Area Historical Rose Society.

Coordinator: Dave Grace, dgrace01@aol.com

Waterwise FY&N Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

For color and texture in winter, the native flatwoods plum is perfect with its angular branches and reddish bark punctured with tiny bumps.

Coordinator: Gabrielle Milch, fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

Basket Grass

This wild grass is found predominantly in moist and shady areas of a lawn. It thrives in this environment and is able to spread easily since the turf is usually weaker in these areas due to lack of sunlight and other environmental factors.

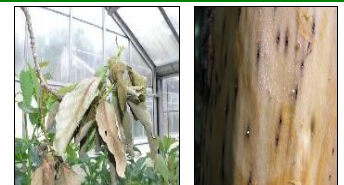
It can be identified by its wavy leaves, which feature a white mid vein that divides each leaf into two uneven halves.

The most effective control for this is to correct the cultural problem that exists. Some suggestions include:

- Trim trees to provide more adequate sunlight
- Cut back the watering in shaded areas
- Place sod or plugs in bare areas of lawn
- Make plant beds in areas where grass is weak



Pest Alert: FIRST REPORT OF LAUREL WILT IN SEMINOLE COUNTY



On November 10, 2010 the Plant Pathology laboratory of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services confirmed that the fungus that causes the Laurel Wilt Disease was isolated from a sample of tissue of a red bay (*Persea borbonia*) tree located in Casselberry, Florida that wilted and died. This is the first report of this disease in Seminole County. The disease affects other plants in the Laurel plant family such as avocado and sassafras. The ecological implications of this disease on our environment are enormous because red bay trees provide fruit for song birds, turkey, and even bears. Also the Palamedes swallowtail butterflies require red bay leaves for their larval development. The disease is spread by specific ambrosia beetles that introduce the fungus into the tree as they tunnel into the wood and later growing and destroying the





Seminole County Extension

Residential Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd
Sanford FL 32773

Located across from Flea World,
17-92 & County Home Road

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Your Community Resource For
Gardening and Landscaping
Information
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[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/
Coopext/](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/Coopext/)

Cooperative Extension Services
Seminole County Office

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB
Free quarterly
Newsletter

To receive by email
AFerrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

**Newsletter
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**Seminole County:
USDA Hardiness
Zone 9b
Amer.Hort.Soc.
Heat Zone 10**

EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

January 15, 2011
9:00am - 11:30am

Drought & Your Yard
Seminole Ext. Center Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Register 407-665-5575 Free!!!
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

February 5, 2011
9:00am - NOON

Fla. Vegetable Gardening Class
Seminole Ext. Center Auditorium
250 W. County Homes Rd. Sanford
Reg. required \$10.00 a class
407-665-5551
aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

February 10, 2011
6:30pm - 9:30pm

Fla. Vegetable Gardening Class
Seminole Ext, Center Auditorium
250 W. County Homes Rd. Sanford
Registration required \$10.00 a class
407-665-5551
aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

February 17, 2011
9:00am - NOON

Fla. Vegetable Gardening Class
Seminole Ext. Center Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Registration required \$10.00 a class
407-665-5551
aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

March 14, 2011
9:00am- 11:30am

How to Design a Fla. Friendly Landscape
Seminole Ext. Center Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Regist. 407-665-5575 FREE!!!!
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

March 24, 2011
6:30pm- 8:30pm

Right Plant, Right Place
Seminole Ext. Center Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Regist. 407-665-5575 FREE!!!!
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

March 13, 2011
10:00am - 4:00pm

Sweetwater Garden Fair
Wekiva Springs Rd & Fox Valley Dr.
Guest Speakers Vendors
Free!!! Fun!!!
More info 407-880-8758
[info www.swogc.info](http://www.swogc.info)
emabbas@earthlink.net

